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Project: 3-IJ-132

Budget Proposal

Maryland Interjurisdictional Fishery Statistics

For the periods

October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006  
October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007  
October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008  
October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009  
October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010

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Fishery Service  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

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## Maryland Interjurisdictional Fishery Statistics

### **Project Description**

#### Project Background

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Fisheries Service, is responsible for the management of commercial and recreational fisheries in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, as well as its coastal bays and near shore Atlantic waters. Inter-jurisdictional species such as striped bass are the most difficult group of commercial species to manage because of the competing interests of management entities within the species range. The purpose of this project is to facilitate the interstate fisheries management process through the collection of the appropriate commercial catch and effort statistics for inter-jurisdictional species harvested in Maryland.

Maryland waters support important commercial species including blue crabs, striped bass, weakfish, croaker, spot, sea bass and summer flounder. In 2004, preliminary data show that Maryland commercial landings of finfish species governed by interstate management plans exceeded 6.6 million pounds, while blue crab landings exceeded 31.0 million pounds. The total dockside value of the commercial catch of interjurisdictional species exceeds 41.6 million dollars.

#### Project Objective

To maintain Maryland's commercial catch and effort data collection programs for interjurisdictional species.

## Statement of Work FY 2009

Four on-going commercial fisheries catch/effort data collection systems are managed under the Maryland interjurisdictional fisheries statistics program. These include:

1. Finfish Reporting System.
2. Blue Crab Reporting System.
3. Fishing Guide Reporting System.
4. Seafood Dealer Reporting System.

### Plan of Action

#### Finfish Reporting System.

The commercial finfish catch and effort reporting system will be continued under this funding. Approximately 2,600 individuals were licensed to catch finfish in Maryland waters in 2004. These licensees are required to report their catch and effort for each trip by gear type and fishing area on a monthly basis via a mail-in form provided by DNR.

#### Blue Crab Reporting System.

The commercial blue crab reporting system will also be continued under this funding. Approximately 6,000 people were licensed to harvest blue crabs commercially in Maryland in 2004. Each of these licensees was issued a set of report forms to record crabbing effort and catch on a daily basis during the reporting month and was required to mail these forms back to DNR.

#### Fishing Guide Reporting System.

The fishing guide reporting system, also known as the Charter Boat Logbook System, will also continue. To operate a charter/header boat for hire in Maryland state waters, one needs a Maryland fishing guide license along with a Coast Guard Master License. Recently, the number of fishing guide licenses sold exceeded 500 per year. Each charter boat operating in Maryland is required to record its passengers' total daily catch by species on the forms in the logbook. The forms are forwarded to DNR every week.

#### Sea Food Dealer Reporting System.

The seafood dealer reporting system will also be continued. This system is based on a monthly census of licensed buyers of finfish and blue crabs. There are about 250 licensed seafood dealers in Maryland. Each dealer is asked to report his total monthly purchases and average price by species and market category. The main purpose of the system is to estimate average monthly dockside prices for these species.

## Schedule of Accomplishments

Harvest and effort data are collected throughout the year for finfish. Blue crab harvest and effort data is collected only during its season (April through December). Similarly, the charter data, during the normal operating season in Maryland waters, is collected during the period April to December.

### Milestone Chart – Finfish, Blue Crab, Seafood Dealer Reporting Systems

1. Reports with a month's activity are due into Maryland DNR's office by the tenth of the following month.
2. Raw data are checked and corrected for logic errors before being computerized. Additional quality control and quality assurance measures are then applied to the data afterwards.
3. For reports not received by the twentieth of the month, the fishermen are sent a reminder of the missing report. If reports are not submitted, a hold will be placed on the fisherman's ability to renew his commercial license for the following license year.
4. Preliminary data are provided to NMFS in an electronic format 60 days after the end of the reported month. Compiled data are submitted annually to NMFS for inclusion in reporting of Fishery Statistics of the United States. Monthly data are also available at Maryland DNR for staff and public use.

### Milestone Chart – Charter Boat Trip Reporting System

1. A charter boat's reporting week is defined as Monday through Sunday. A week's daily reports are due in the mail by the following Tuesday.
2. Raw data are checked and corrected for logic errors before being computerized. Additional quality control and quality assurance measures are then applied to the data afterwards.
3. For a month's worth of reports not received by the twentieth of the following month, the charter captains or boat owners are sent a reminder of the missing reports.
4. The trip information collected, which includes the date, number of anglers, number of trips that day, and the fishing locations, will be sent weekly to the Marine Recreational Fishing Survey (MRFS) for inclusion in its "for hire" calculation of recreational fishing effort.

## Kinds of Data Collected

Data collected include catch, effort by gear type and NOAA area location in Maryland waters, and dockside value of catch. All the data collected are consistent with standards developed by the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistical Program (ACCSP) for minimum data elements for commercial catch and effort data. The data collected by the Marine Recreational Fishing Survey (MRFS) is the recreational standard. The charter

boat reporting system is consistent with them.

#### Cooperating Organizations and Individuals

Maryland Watermen's Association  
Maryland Charterboat Association  
Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association  
Maryland Office of Seafood Marketing

#### **Benefits**

Well managed fish populations and viable fisheries are dependent upon accurate, reliable data and data-based fisheries management. This project collects the necessary fisheries dependent data needed to make informed decisions for fisheries management.

#### **Geographic Location**

Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

# Proposed Budget for FY 2009

	Federal	State	Total
<b>Salaries</b>			
Classified			
Ylonda Brown <sup>1</sup> @100%	31,877		31,877
Sally Sellman <sup>2</sup> @50%	2,045	16,060	18,105
Belinda Gray <sup>3</sup> @40%		14,499	14,499
Connie Lewis <sup>4</sup> @22%		12,479	12,479
<b>Subtotal</b>	33,922	43,038	76,960
Fringe @30%	10,177	12,912	23,089
<b>Total Classified</b>	44,099	55,950	100,049
<b>Total Salaries and Fringe</b>	44,099	55,950	100,049
Indirect @11.38	5,018	6,367	11,385
<b>Total Salaries and Indirect</b>	49,117	62,317	111,434
Software	1,100		1,100
Printing	1,100		1,100
Postage	11,000		11,000
<b>Total Operating</b>	13,200		13,200
<b>Total Budget</b>	62,317	62,317	124,634

- 1: Office Clerk
- 2: Office Clerk
- 3: Data Processing Programming Trainee
- 4: D. P. Programmer Analyst Specialist IV